GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
STEPS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF COAL
RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is not self-sufficient in the production of coal;

(b) if so, the details regarding the annual growth of coal alongwith the consumption and demand in the country;

(c) whether the gap between the demand and availability is likely to increase during the current financial year;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of coal? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a)to(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 130 ANSWER ON 3.3.2000

(a) The indigenous production of coal is adequate to meet the demand for non-coking coal in the country. There is however a gap between the demand and supply of coking coal.

(b) Details regarding annual demand, production and offtake since the year 1996-97 are as follows:

(In million tonnes)

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
DEMAND	325.00	323.38	325.38	311.83
	(7.70)	(6.80)	(7.50)	(5.70)
PRODUCTION	285.63	295.80	292.27	208.18
				(upto Dec'99)
OFFTAKE	286.46	296.96	288.58	219.15
By various consumers	(2.58)	(5.72)	(3.02)	(1.62) (upto Dec'99)
(excluding imported coal)				

(Figures in brackets indicate middlings)

(c)&(d) No shortage of non-coking coal is likely during the current year. However, as production of coking coal of required quality is less than the demand, steel plants are importing coking coal to meet their requirements.

(e) Steps taken to increase production of coal include inter-alia, starting new projects and opening new mines, modernisation of existing mines and upgradation of technology